



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : G01V 3/08		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/54075
			(43) International Publication Date: 14 September 2000 (14.09.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/06219		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 10 March 2000 (10.03.00)		Published With international search report.	
(30) Priority Data: 60/123,929 12 March 1999 (12.03.99) US			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PROFILE TECHNOLOGIES, INC. (US/US); 1 Blue Hill Plaza, Pearl River, NY 10693 (US).			
(72) Inventor; and			
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): KUO, John, T. [-/US]; 11 Hoffman Lane, Blauvelt, NY 10913 (US).			
(74) Agent: HUGHES, Robert, B.; Hughes & Schacht, P.S., Suite 1, 2801 Meridian Street, Bellingham, WA 98225 (US).			
(54) Title: DYNAMIC ELECTROMAGNETIC METHODS FOR DIRECT PROSPECTING FOR OIL			
(57) Abstract			
<p>This patent application is to use dynamic electromagnetic wave reflection (24) and refraction methods for prospecting for oil (20) directly. The available geophysical methods including the most used seismic reflection method are all prospecting for oil indirectly, viz., aiming at finding the geological structures and stratigraphic traps, etc. The high contrasts of electric permittivity between oil and surrounding geological formations of rocks including gas, water (fresh and salt), on the other hand, make it possible to use dynamic electromagnetic wave reflection (24) and refraction methods for prospecting for deep seated oil (20) directly.</p>			

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

DYNAMIC ELECTROMAGNETIC METHODS FOR DIRECT PROSPECTING FOR OIL

5

Related Applications

This application claims priority of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/123,929, which was filed on March 12, 1999.

Background of the Invention

I have been interested in finding a direct means for prospecting for oil for some time, although I have spent my entire career of nearly a half century in geophysical prospecting for oil, including the most widely used methods of seismic prospecting for oil. All geophysical methods including the most used seismic reflection method have been indirect, i.e., aiming at finding structures, stratigraphic traps, or inferring lithological characteristics only. The chance of finding oil for the seismic techniques is about one in six to seven. In the present invention, the chance of finding oil will be about one in two to three.

The electromagnetic (EM) wave propagation depends primarily on the electric permittivity of the earth materials of rocks, while the conductivity of these earth materials is very low and the magnetic permeability is virtually constant. How the dynamic electromagnetic wave methods of this provisional application differ from any other methods lies in the fact using the physical properties of the oil itself in contrast to surrounding rocks of geological formations, gas, and water. Oil has an extremely low electric permittivity or dielectric constant, which is about 4 with an electromagnetic wave velocity of 50 m/us while fresh or salt water has a value of permittivity 81 with an

5 electromagnetic wave velocity of 33 m/us. Surrounding sediments, usually say limestone, which has a value of permittivity 7-16 with an electromagnetic wave velocity of 75-113 m/us and that for sandstone 5-15 with an electromagnetic wave velocity of 77-134 m/us. It is these ideal electric permittivity contrasts that provide a means to use dynamic electromagnetic method for direct prospecting for oil.

Field of the Invention

10 The present invention relates to direct prospecting for oil in any environment worldwide at various depths. Using an extremely broad band of electromagnetic waves, this electromagnetic wave prospecting method should penetrate various depths which could be comparable to the penetration of seismic waves. Most importantly it would provide a means to directly identifying where the oil is and find the interfaces 15 between the water and oil, as the permittivity of the water is 81 with an electromagnetic wave velocity 300 m/us.

Background Art

20 During the last two decades, ground penetrating radar has been employed in shallow depth ranging from the surface to about 50 to 100 meters, which are operated in the radar frequency ranges of 50 to 1,000 mHz solely based on antenna source and antenna receivers.

25 This patent application is solely for prospecting for oil directly using frequency range from as low as DC to radar frequency, covering from the surface to a depth of greater than 3,000 meters or more for deep seated oil deposits. The art of achieving such a depth penetration must rely upon the design of the sources as well as the receivers, which will be expounded in the following section.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The essential part of this patent application is divided into two designing sections of the source and receiver, and one section on practice in the field.

5 1. The Source:

In order to have the electromagnetic waves to penetrate to a depth of 3,000 m or more, a very low-frequency in the radio LF to UHF frequency range type of electromagnetic source is required, which would have the capability of delivering the power in the range of at 10 least 10 to 100 kw or more with a voltage of 1,000 volts or more and a current of 10 to 100 Amperes or more.

1. Pulse Excitation:

An electric pulse of 1-ms pulse width or wider pulse width so that the one-sided positive excitation of the source and one-sided 15 negative excitation can be used as shown in Figure 1a. The first derivatives of these two pulses are the Gaussian functions as shown in Figure 1b. The second derivatives are the typical wave forms of one peak and one trough shown in Figure 1c. The Gaussian-function source in the form of (a/σ) , $\frac{1}{2} \exp[-a(t-t_0)^2]$, where the time is so 20 chosen such that the function normalized by its peak value is nearly zero shown to Figure 2a the pulse width of which is defined as $w=4\sigma$ where $\sigma = (2a)^{1/2}$ is the standard deviation of the Gaussian-pulse, which represents the decay time of the electric current; their amplitude spectrum is also a Gaussian which is in the form of $\exp(-2f^2/a)$, where f is the frequency in Hz and f_c is the cut-off-frequency as shown an 25 Figure 2b is defined here as the frequency at which the amplitude has decayed to e^{-1} or 0.3679 times the peak value. All the derivative sources are continuous.

5 The return reflections at the depth of 3,000 m or deeper reach the surface by only the one-sided positive excitation and would be approximately 60 us or 30 us each way or longer, i.e., downward and upward of the pulse, before the one-sided negative pulse excites the source mechanism, which will be described in the sequel.

2.) Chirping or Sweeping Source:

10 Another source excitation can be easily achieved by means of a chirping or sweeping frequencies. The sweeping- frequency source can be from the low to high frequency or from the high to the low frequency. The near-vertical reflections from the depth can be processed by means of correlation techniques.

15 Frequency range would be from 0.10 to 100 mHz, corresponding to the wavelength fox a high-end average limestone velocity of 100 m/us from 1,000 m to 1 m. Despite the radio LF frequency, the high contrast of the impedance at the oil/salt water interface would produce a strong reflection.

Apparatus

20 Now the invention of the apparatus of the source and receiver is described in the following:

1.) The Source Apparatus:

25 The source apparatus consists of an electromagnetic pulse, impulsive or chirping, generated multi-turn coil, which would in turn generate magnetic field the capacity to produce the power, in turn, the field will be directed by a parabolic directional reflector into the earth as shown in Figure 3. The source multi-turn-coil/parabolic-reflector does not need to be limited to only single one source but it could be a multi-source consisting of a number of multi-turn-coil/ parabolic-

reflectors which could be steered to give a boomer-forming synchronization.

A current is introduced to the mild-turn coil, where the terminal of the incoming current is designated as positive and the terminal of the outgoing current is designated as the negative, there is an applied voltage across these two terminals. For the present application, the voltage will be about 1,000 volts or more and the current be between 10 to 100 Amperes or more to provide adequate power for electromagnetic wave propagation into a greater depth in

5 the earth. The present source is geometrically symmetrical with respect to the center of the well and the vortex of the parabolic reflector.

10

2.) The Receiver Apparatus:

The receiver apparatus consists of a multi-channel data acquisition system. Each channel is equipped by a directional impedance-matched antenna, which is capable of receiving wide-band electromagnetic signals. Receivers are formed in a variety of patterns with respect to the location of the source(s), namely a linear or areal coverage, or a radial coverage.

15

20 The number of channels depends on the subsurface coverage for the electromagnetic imagery. Normally, at least a 48 or 96 channels are required for such an electron wave reflection *prospecting for oil directly.*

Summary of the Invention

The present invention fundamentally differs from any prior-art 5 patents to be cited below owing to the fact that I discovered first the fact that the propagating part of the electromagnetic wave primarily depends on the electric permittivity of the medium which for the oil is extremely low. The interface between the geological formation including sedimentary rocks, namely, sandstone, shale, limestone, and any other rocks as a upper medium, and the sedimentary rocks containing oil as a lower medium provides strong reflection and 10 refraction of electromagnetic waves. Upon this discovery, I then searched in vain to find the prior art inventions as available or patented. I was forced to invent on my own an apparatus and system explicitly for direct-finding oil in all the depth of the oil desposits to be elaborated in the sequel.

15 With the basic operation of the system having been described above, let us now discuss the underlying phenomena involved which enables this system to be directly find oil. The system of the present invention uses a transient time-domain electromagnetic pulse, a sweep-frequencies, from low to high, from high to low, and a pre- 20 designated time domain electromagnetic waves as an excitation source.

25 The technique utilized in the system of the present invention has been designated by the inventors as "True Electromagnetic Waves." (abbreviated to TEMW as TM). The propagation of a transient time-domain pulse, a sweep of frequencies or a predesignated electromagnetic wave train is fundamentally a dynamic electromagnetic phenomenon. It is completely governed by the electromagnetic wave equations, which are derived from Maxwell's Equations, upon which the present invention is based. Details of the

fundamentals of the transient electromagnetic waves are referred to an earlier Patent Application Serial No. 08/807,645, filed on February 27, 1997.

5 In the method of the present invention, the prospecting for oil is done directly by ascertaining presence of oil in the earth, where there are upper, non-oil bearing geological formations which are in contact with an oil bearing geological formation immediately below to form a distinct non-oil/oil interface.

10 More specifically, the method comprises transmitting an electromagnetic wave or waves downwardly through the first formations to said interface, with the wave or waves being reflected and/or refracted upwardly from the interface as reflected and/or refracted wave or waves.

15 These reflected and/or refracted wave or waves are received at a receiving location or locations, with the reflected and/or refracted wave or waves having a reflected and/or refracted waveform or waveforms that would directly indicate the presence of oil.

20 The reflected and/or refracted wave form or forms are analyzed to ascertain a presence of a wave characteristic or characteristics found in a reflected and/or refracted wave or waves that are reflected and/or refracted from a non-oil/oil bearing interface.

Review of Relevant Past Patents

In the advent of fundamental understanding of the time-domain electromagnetic wave propagation and rapid processes in technology made in the petroleum industry mainly during the last half century, the present invention is the culmination of the true time-domain electromagnetic waves embodying all the frequencies according to the spectrum of the dynamic transient time-domain electromagnetic waves as excited at the source. Some of the previous patents are dated back to more than a half century ago. The inventors even then reflected the inventive farsightedness but after all did not have the predictive insight to the future and stayed solely in the frequency-domain.

10 The patents of which possess a different degree of relevant prior-art relevance of the present patent application are eleven as follows. We shall examine these patents in a chronologically reversed order:

1. U.S. Pat. No. 5,147,753 (Etten and Brown, 1994) dealt primarily with the instrumentation of an earth probing system and uses deep penetration of electromagnetic waves into soil and other media. Advantage was taken of the low attenuation of radar waves in soil by frequencies of above three megahertz or less.
2. U.S. Pat. No. 4,504,833 (Burke was related to pulse radar detection of targets and extended media, including natural phenomena such as oil, coal and oil deposits within the earth.
3. U.S. Pat. 4,504,813 (Fowler et al., 1985) was related to a synthetic pulse radar for detecting geophysical phenomena generically.
4. U.S. Pat. No. 4,245,191 (Schroeder, 1981)

dealt with a transmitter and a receiver in the frequency domain with an unmodulated carrier of selected wave length into the ground for detecting inclusions in subsoil only.

5. U.S. Pat. No. 3,806,795 (Morey, 1974) was essentially the pre-generation of ground penetrating radar system now nearly developed commercially for a very shallow depth of 8 to 10 feet..

6. U.S. Pat. No. 2,953,742 (Herbold et al, 1960) comprised mainly a generator, a capacitor, And adjustable spark gap terminals. The latter was used there between arranged to discharge the said 10 capacitor into the antenna and generate an electromagnetic wave front into the shallow depth of the earth.

7. U.S. Pat. No. 2,766,422 (Carbonetto, 1956) intended to generate a modulated carrier wave by a high frequency carrier wave to be modulated with a relatively low-frequency wave in the frequency-domain. The radiation of the modulated carrier wave then was used as 15 the source for penetrating the ground and to observe the radiation f the reflected wave.

8. U.S. Pat. No. 2,426,918 (Barret, 1947) addressed electric prospecting in the frequency-domain of mapping the near surface 20 subsurface zones by means of varying the frequency of the incident wave and observing the reflected wave.

9. U.S. Pat. No. 2,268,106 (Blau, 1941) dealt with utilizing commercial broadcasting stations and receiving dealt with radio waves or electromagnetic waves of radio frequencies.

25 10.U.S. Pat. No. 2,139,460 (Potapenko, 1938) was based upon the inventor's discovery of that crude oil has a selective absorption for electromagnetic radiation corresponding to the part of its spectrum of short and ultraviolet radio waves. The patent dealt with two specific different frequencies.

11. U.S. Pat. No. 2,077,707 (Melton, 1937) dealt with an improvement in electrical prospecting shallow subsurface prospecting to determine the character and location of shallow geological formations mentioning reflection and refraction impulses.

5 12. U.S. Pat. No. 1,818,331 (Jakosy, 1931) dealt with electrical inductive methods only for prospecting electrically conductive underground ore bodies.

None of the patents which have been searched addressed the fact of the electric permittivity of oil is extremely low at about 4 in
10 comparison with other that of any of the geological media as well as water and gas. The interface of any known geological media including shale, sandstone, limestone, siltstone, mudstone, etc. with the oil provided a means of strong reflections of electromagnetic waves for the near vertical reflection method and of strong refractions for the
15 wider-angle refraction method. The discovery of this very fact is the essence of the present invention for direct finding oil. The depth to which the present invention hereby referred extends from a shallow depth of 1,000 to 5,000 feet to an optimal depth of 10,000, 15,000 feet or greater at which most of the known oil deposits were found (see
20 figures attached).

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is an isometric view showing schematically the system of the present invention being utilized in detecting directly the presence of an oil bearing formation, showing the wave or waves being transmitted from a central transmitter to the non-oil/ oil interface at the oil bearing formation with reflected waves being detected by an array of antenna receivers;

10 Figs. 2A, 2B and 2C illustrate three types of the sources, namely, step or Heaviside, sweep (or chirping) and random, which desirably can be used in the present invention;

15 Figs. 2A-1 illustrate a pulse width, and its first and second derivatives;

Figs. 2A-1bA and 2A-1-bB are the Gaussian source and the amplitude spectrum, respectively;

15 Fig. 3 is a schematic view taken along a vertical plane extending from the earth's surface to the oil bearing formation, illustrating the transmission and reflection form;

20 Figs. 3A and 3B illustrate the waves that are reflected from the interfaces 1/2 , 2/3, and 4/4 H as shown in Fig. 3 and shows the reflected waveforms of the cross-correlation between the source and the reflected waves; and

Fig. 4 is an isometric view showing rather schematically the parabolic reflector of the transmitter with its multi-turn coil.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

It is believed that an understanding of the present invention can be provided more readily by first describing generally the overall system and method of the present invention, and then discussing various details of the same.

Reference is first made to Fig. 1, where there is shown schematically in an isometric view an upper ground surface or sea bottom where there is positioned a transmitter 12 (i.e. the source) and a plurality of antenna receivers 14 which in this particular arrangement are positioned 16 with respect to the source in the center, extending radially from the transmitter 12, with the antenna receivers 14 being at spaced locations along the receiving profiles 16. These profiles 16 of receivers 14 would be spaced from one another, and in the present embodiment the spacing would be about sixty degrees between each profile 16. Other arrangements of the antenna receivers are of course optional.

The wave or waves are directed from the transmitter 12 downwardly from the earth's surface into the underlying geological formations. As indicated above, the underlying geological formation or formations could be, for example, stratified formations of sandstone, shale, limestone, etc. At the bottom of Fig. 1, there is shown an oil bearing formation 20.

As the wave or waves 22 from the transmitter 12 travel downwardly, they are reflected at the interfaces in a generally cone shaped pattern. The reflection from the non-oil/oil interface is expected to be distinctly strong because of its large reflection coefficient. Then these waves 22 reach a non-oil/oil interface where the upper surface of the oil bearing formation 20 is in contact with the lower surface of the geological formation immediately above (thus

forming the distinct non/oil interface). The waves 22 are reflected and/or refracted upwardly from the non-oil/oil interface, and they travel upwardly. These strong upwardly reflected waves are indicated at 24.

5 The various antenna receivers 14 are positioned and arranged to receive the reflected waves 24. These reflected waves that are received by the antenna receivers are in turn directed to a receiving/analyzing apparatus shown schematically as a rectangle 26. At that time (or at a later time) these received waves are analyzed in terms of their wave characteristics expected to be found in a reflected 10 wave or waves then are reflected from a non-oil/oil interface.

With the foregoing being given as a general description of the method, reference will now be made to Figs. 2A, 2B and 2C. Figure 15 2A shows a first source waveform which can be utilized as the transmitted wave or waves in the present invention, this being a step or Heaviside waveform noting a step at the time $t = 0$.

To discuss further the type of the source (Fig. 2A) step or Heaviside waveforms that is transmitted from the source 12, as indicated previously, can be an electric pulse of greater than one milisecond width as shown in Fig. 2A-1(a). Take the first rise of the 20 step which is a realistic Heaviside or step, we use. The first derivatives of these two pulses are the Gaussian functions as shown in Fig. 2A-1(b). The second derivatives are typical of the waveforms of one peak and one trough as shown in Fig. 2A-1(c). Fig. 2A-1(b) represents the Gaussian-function source in Fig. 2A-1-bA, where the function is normalized by its peak. Fig. 2A-1-bB is its amplitude spectrum, which 25 is also a Gaussian.

A second source waveform which can be used in the present invention is shown in Fig. 2B, and this is a sweep or chirping wave form. As shown in Fig. 2B, at time zero the waveform is at a lower

frequency, and the frequency increases in time. The reverse can also be used (i.e. starting at a higher frequency to a low frequency so that the frequency decreases in time). For the chirping or sweeping source the frequency range could extend between 0.10-100 mHz.

5 In Fig. 2C, there is shown another source waveform which could be used, this being a random waveform where the frequency and/or amplitude, and other characteristics vary in random.

10 For further description of the present invention reference is now made to Fig. 3, 3A, 3B and 3C. Fig. 3 is a schematic representation which is taken along a vertical plane extending from the 15 transmitting/receiving location on the earth's surface or sea bottom through several geological formations downwardly to the oil bearing formation 20. There are also shown in Fig. 3 three upper geological formations 26, 28 and 30, and a lowermost formation 32 immediately above the oil bearing formation 20. The formation 26 and 28 meet as the interface 34, and the formations 28 and 30 meet at the interface 36. As shown in Fig. 3, there may be other formations between the 20 lowermost non-oil formation 32 and the formation 30, and these in turn would have their respective interfaces. The lowermost formation 32 that is immediately above the oil bearing formation 20 is the non-oil/oil interface designated at 38.

25 In Fig. 3, for clarity of explanation, only three transmitted waves are shown and three related reflected waves. There is a first transmitted wave component 40a which travels at an angle. When it reaches the interface 34, there is a reflected wave indicated at 40b, and this reaches the receiver R1 (the wave 40a is also refracted into the lower medium 28 and further downwardly to pass through the other interface 36, and on through other interfaces. For convenience of illustration these are not shown.)

Then there is the second transmitted wave 42a which is shown traveling to the interface 36, with a reflected wave at 42b. Finally, we have the third transmitted wave 44a which is shown traveling all the way to the interface 38, with the reflected wave being indicated at 44b.

5 In Fig. 3A, there are shown the waveforms which would be received when a step or Heaviside wave is transmitted into the geological formation as the transmitted wave. At 46, there is shown the source waveform which is excited at the sending location through the instrument system, which is referenced to time zero. Then at 48
10 there is the reflected waveform from the interface 34 of the geological formations 26 and 28. At 50 there is the reflected waveform from the interface 36 of the geological formations 28 and 30. Finally, there is shown at 52 the reflected wave 44b which is received from the non-oil/oil interface 38 are all analyzed..

15 Each of these waveforms 48, 50, 52 and also the other reflected waveforms resulting from interfaces between the interface 36 and 38 are analyzed.

It is this reflected waveform 52 which indicates the presence of an non-oil/oil bearing interface 20. It is important to note that this
20 waveform 52 itself is analyzed to determine the character or characteristics of this wave to see if it matches a characteristic or characteristics of a waveform which would be expected to be received from a non-oil/oil bearing interface at the depth of that interface. The key is that the reflected waves from the interface of the non-oil/oil boundary will have at least 2% of reflection coefficient.

Fig. 3B(i) shows the observed or recorded "Electromagnetogram (EMG)" showing the various reflected waves which would result from the source of a sweep (or chirping) waveform or a random waveform. Fig. 3B(ii) shows the source waveform at 46a,

and the waveform reflected at 48a, 50a and 52a. Fig. 3B(iii) shows the cross-correlation waveforms resulted from the source cross-correlated with the recorded electromagnetogram (EMG) of Fig. 3B(i).

Substantially the same procedure is followed as described above with regard to the reflected waveforms 46, 48, 50 and 52. When it is found that the reflected waveform has the characteristic or characteristics of those that would be expected from a non-oil/oil interface, then the presence of the oil bearing formation is ascertained.

Fig. 5 represents the configuration of the critical refractions at the non-oil/oil interface, 110, between the upper geological formations of non-oil bearing, and the lower geological formation of oil bearing. The source S1, 100A, transmits an electromagnetic wave, 101A, into the earth, which reaches the critical angle, 102A, the angle of refraction in the lower oil-bearing formation reaches 90 degree. The critically refracted waves are propagated into the upper medium as the critically reflected/refracted waves, 103A, to be recorded on the earth's surface or sear bottom. For a reversed profiling, the source S2, 100B, likewise, transmits an electromagnetic wave, 101B, into the earth. When it reaches the critical angle, 102B, at the interface of non-oil/oil bearing formations, the same wave phenomena as before occur to have critically refracted waves, 103B, which transmit into the upper medium as the critically reflected/refracted waves to be recorded on the earth's surface or sea bottom. The said critical angle for the present case of non-oil/oil bearing formations (above/below) is bout 20 degrees. The range of recording requires at least more than twice of the depth of interest. The favorable electromagnetic properties of the oil-bearing medium, particularly its low value of electric permittivity, in comparison with any other geological formations including water, thus

would give strong reflections and refractions that directly indicate the presence of oil in the formation.

The source (i.e. transmitter) is designed to operate at a very low frequency in the radio LF to UHF frequency range. This would have the capability of delivering power in the range of at least 10 to 100 kW or more with a voltage of 1000 volts or more and a current of 10 to 100 amperes or more. The source apparatus would utilize a parabolic directional reflector, which is shown in Fig. 4 as a multi-turn coil/parabolic-reflector indicated somewhat schematically at 60 in Fig. 4 (the coil being indicated at 62). The source 12 does not need to be limited to only a single source, but could be a multi-source, consisting of a number of multi-turned coil/parabolic reflectors which could be steered to give a beam forming synchronization.

Each of the receivers 14 is equipped with a directional impedance-matched antenna which is capable of receiving wide band electromagnetic signals. These receivers can be formed in a variety of patterns with respect to location of the source or sources 12, namely a linear or areal coverage or a radial coverage. The number of channels depends on the subsurface coverage for the electromagnetic imagery. Normally, at least 24, 48 or 96 channels are required for such an electromagnetic wave reflection.

It is to be understood that the various modifications and/or variation could be made in the present invention without departing from the basic teachings thereof. For example, present analysis indicates that the voltage could be about 1000 volts or more, and within the broader scope, it may be possible that in some situations the voltage could even be lower, or very much higher. This is also true of the range between 10 - 100 amperes. Thus there could be increases (or decreases) between 10% - 50%, 50% - 100%, 100% - 500% -

1000%. Also within those ranges, there could be increases or decreases in 10% increments, and these 10% incremental increases or decreases could vary beyond the range given above.

The above description is intended to show preferred embodiments, and the claims are intended to cover other components and methods which, although not shown, are within the broader scope of the present invention.

Therefore, I Claim

1. A method of prospecting for oil by directly ascertaining presence of oil in the earth, where there are the upper, non-oil bearing geological formations which are in contact with an oil bearing geological formation immediately below to form a distinct non-oil/oil interface, said method comprising:
 - 5 a) transmitting an electromagnetic wave or waves downwardly through the first formations to said interface, with the wave or waves being reflected and/or refracted upwardly from the interface as reflected and/or refracted wave or waves;
 - 10 b) receiving said reflected and/or refracted wave or waves at a receiving location or locations, with said reflected and/or refracted wave or waves having a reflected and/or refracted waveform or waveforms that would directly indicate the presence of oil;
 - 15 c) analyzing said reflected and/or refracted waveform or forms to ascertain a presence of a wave characteristic or characteristics found in a reflected and/or refracted wave or waves that are reflected and/or refracted from a non-oil/oil bearing interface.
- 20

FIG. 1

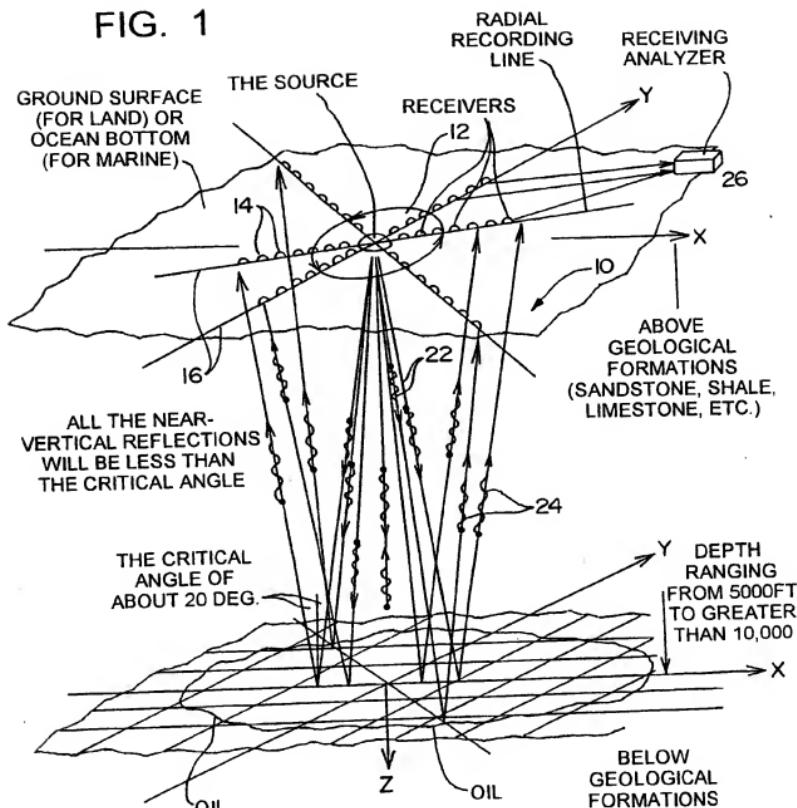
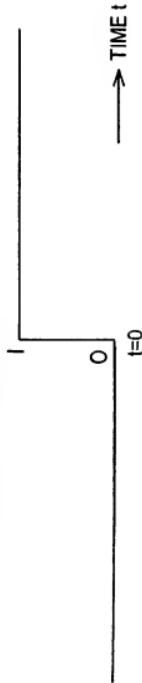


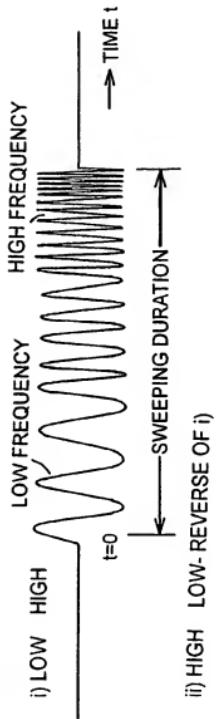
FIG. 2

TYPE OF SOURCES

2A.) STEP OR HEAVY-SIDE:



2B.) SWEEP OR CHIRPING:



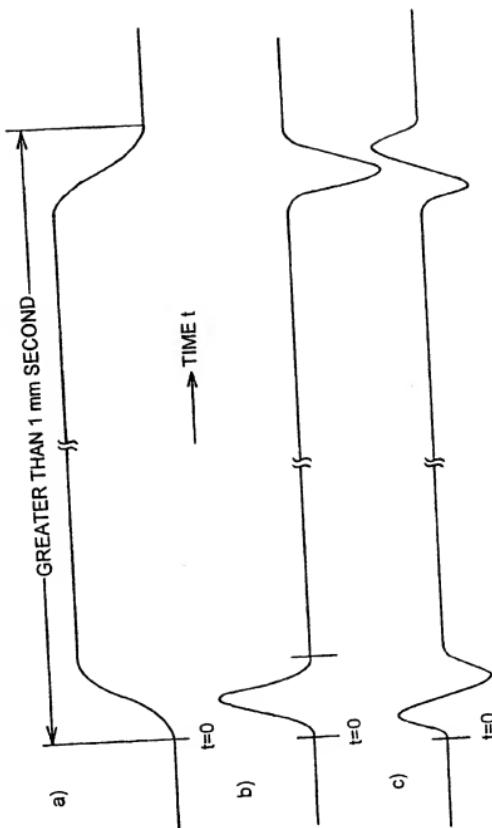
i) HIGH LOW-REVERSE OF i)

2C.) RANDOM:



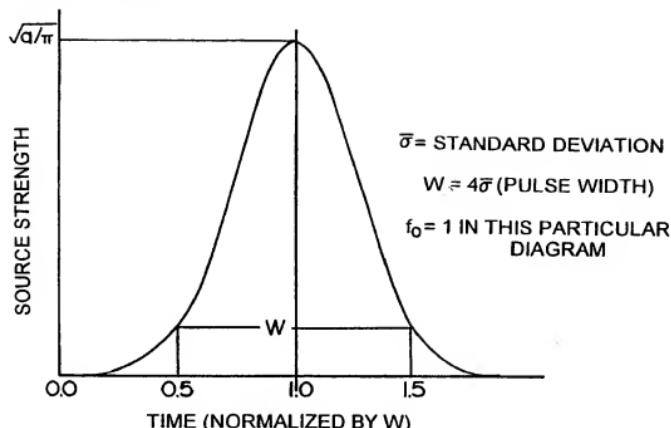
FIG. 2A-1

(a) A SQUARE-WAVE PULSE.
(b) A GAUSSIAN-FUNCTION PULSE,
OR THE FIRST DERIVATIVES OF (a)
(c) THE SECOND DERIVATIVES OF (c)



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

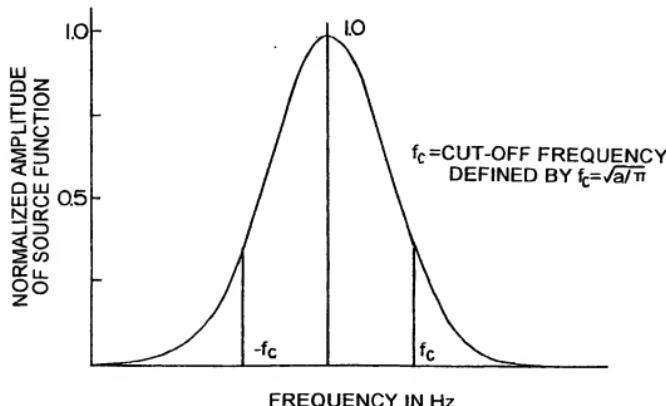
FIG. 2A-1-bA



THE GAUSSIAN SOURCE FUNCTION:

$$(a/\pi)^{1/2} \exp[-a(t-f_0)^2]$$

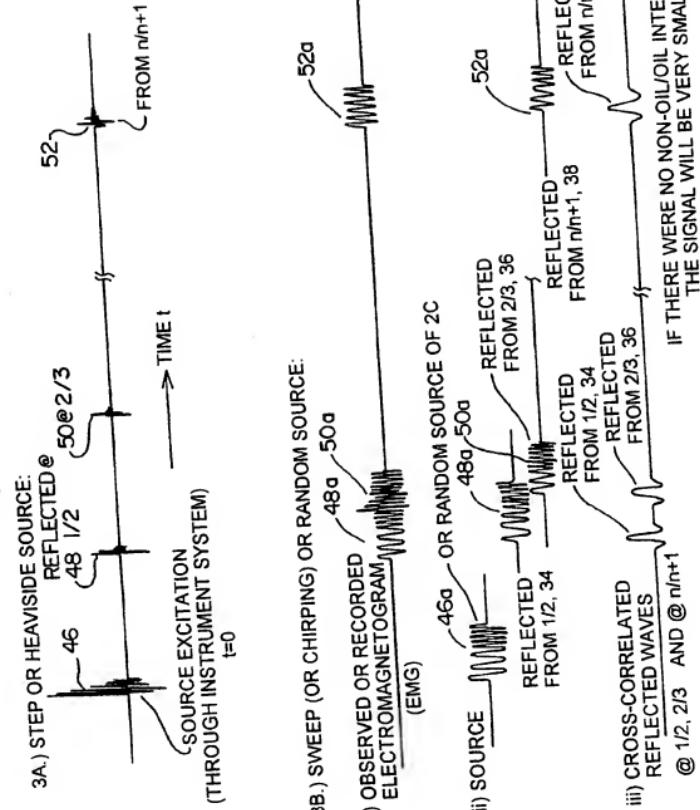
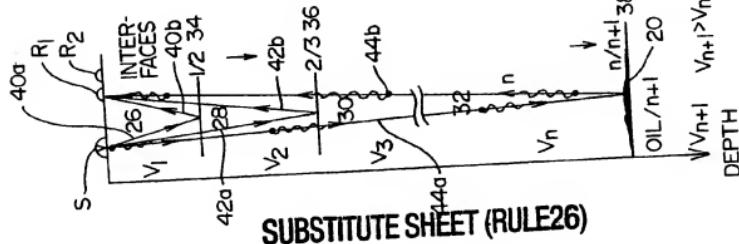
FIG. 2A-1-bB



THE AMPLITUDE SPECTRUM OF THE
 SOURCE FUNCTION: $\exp(-\pi^2 f^2/a)$.

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

FIG. 3 EXPECTED ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES FROM THE NON-OIL/OIL INTERFACE

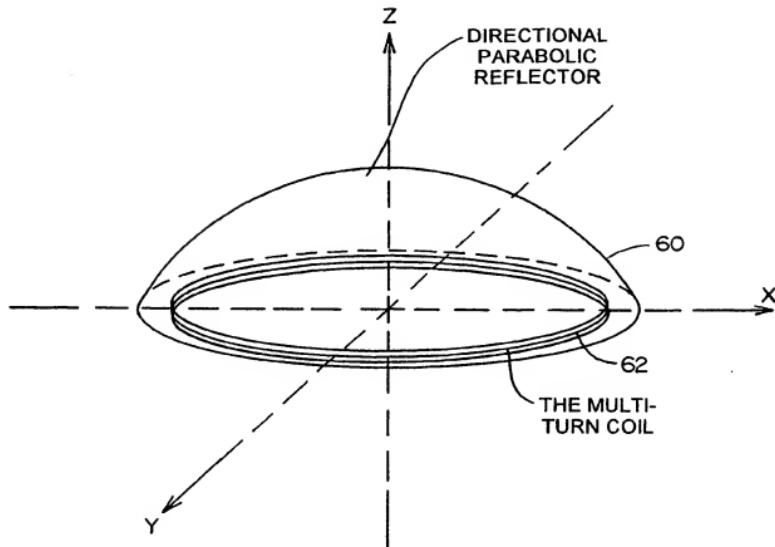


IF THERE WERE NO NON-OIL/OIL INTERFACE THE SIGNAL WILL BE VERY SMALL

DEPTH

FIG. 4

THE SOURCE APPARATUS: CONSISTING
OF THE MULTI-TURN COIL AND
DIRECTIONAL PARABOLIC REFLECTOR



EIG 5 CRITICALLY REFLECTED/REFRACTED EMW

CF AN
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 00/06219

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :G01V 3/08

US CL :324/334

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 324/334,336,337,344

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
noneElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
none

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2,919,397 A [Morley] 29 December 1959, (29/12/59) col. 1 lines 14-2	1

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

A	Special categories of cited documents:	*T*	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
E	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X*	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
L	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y*	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
O	document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*A*	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
P	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 MAY 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

02 JUN 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

WALTER E. SNOW

Telephone No. (703) 305-4911

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)